

Thursday, 09/07/2017

The ERT's mobile laboratory, using the TAGA tandem mass spectrometer system, monitored the perimeter and selected roads in the neighborhood adjacent to the Valero refinery (Houston). Low level benzene concentrations (approximately 1-2 part per billion by volume (ppbv)) were observed at many locations. At multiple times, low-level plumes of benzene and the other aromatics were observed in the neighborhood (e.g., on Manchester Street and at the corner of 96st Street and Avenue L). The maximum concentration of benzene observed was on Lawndale Street across from the LyondaleBasell Refinery at approximately 20 ppbv. Toluene and xylenes/ethylbenzene were also present in plumes along Lawndale Street with maximum concentrations less than 35 ppbv for toluene and less than 25 ppbv for xylenes/ethylbenzene. Another plume was observed where South Freeway becomes Central Street. The benzene, toluene, and xylenes/ethylbenzene maximum concentrations were 10 ppbv, 25 ppbv, and 20 ppbv, respectively. The wind was reported to be out of the ENE today.